

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 00563 291858Z

73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 IO-14 AF-10 SCA-01 SY-03 DRC-01

/143 W

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R 291716Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3189

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS AEAGG-OCO

USELMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WB

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF ARAB TERRORISTS-THIRD AND FOURTH  
SESSIONS, MARCH 25 AND 28.

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 00563 291858Z

REF:

A. BERLIN 1813 (LIMDIS NOTAL) OCT 19, 1973

B. BERLIN 445

1. MARCH 25 SESSION DEVOTED TO TESTIMONY OF ORIGINAL ARAB INFORMANT, WHO DESCRIBED CONNECTIONS OF DEFENDANTS TO AL FATAH AND OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID THAT ALI SALEM HAD INDICATED HE WAS IN BERLIN ON MISSION FOR BLACK SEPTEMBER AND REPEATED DETAILS REPORTED REF A. ACCORDING TO WITNESS, SALEM SAID TERRORISTS WERE TO ESCAPE VIA EAST BERLIN WITH HELP OF OFFICE ON ALEXANDERPLATZ IN EAST BERLIN (PRESUMABLY PLO), AND THAT IN CASE OF ARREST OTHER GROUPS WOULD TAKE ACTION TO FREE THEM.

2. MARCH 28 SESSION TAKEN UP BY DEFENSE MANEUVERS INTENDED TO CAST DOUBT ON RELIABILITY OF INFORMANT, QUESTION PROPRIETY OF POLICE PROCEDURES, AND CREATE BASIS FOR LATER APPEALS. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS REQUESTED COURT TO OBTAIN STATEMENT FROM GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY ON EXISTENCE PLO OFFICE, WHICH THEY CLAIMED TO DOUBT, AND TO INSPECT ALEXANDERPLATZ TO DETERMINE IF PLO ACTUALLY THERE. THEY ALSO REQUESTED COURT TO SUMMON PLO REPS FROM BEIRUT AND GENEVA TO TESTIFY THAT PLO HAS NO OFFICE IN GDR AND THAT BLACK SEPTEMBER CEASED TO EXIST IN JUNE 1973; TO HAVE AL FATAH OFFICIAL ABU DAUD TESTIFY ON INFORMANT'S BACKGROUND; TO HAVE FRG STATE SECRETARY GAUS TESTIFY THAT GDR TOLD HIM IN COURSE OF FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS THAT PLO OFFICE NOT YET ESTABLISHED IN GDR; AND TO HAVE SEVERAL FRG SECURITY OFFICIALS TESTIFY ON PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. INFORMANT, WHO NOW LIVES IN KAISERSLAUTERN, SURPRISED POLICE BY VOLUNTEERING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OUTSIDE COURT THAT ALI SALEM ASKED ARAB ACQUAINTANCES IN BERLIN TO PROCURE PISTOLS TO BE USED IN OPERATION. POLICE OBTAINED STATEMENT FROM ANOTHER ARAB WHICH CORROBORATES INFORMANT. BOTH ARABS EXPECTED TO TESTIFY NEXT WEEK.

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 00563 291858Z

4. TABLOIDS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO INFORMANT'S TESTIMONY, BUT, CONSIDERING NATURE OF CHARGES, PUBLICITY HAS BEEN MODERATE. BROTHER OF DEFENDANT MOHAMED ZAHER ATTENDED THIRD SESSION BUT THERE STILL HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS OF ANY KIND. COURT MAY RULE ON DEFENSE REQUESTS AT NEXT SESSION, APRIL 1.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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NNN

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